
I. INTRODUCTION

Asbestos, once commonly referred to as the miracle mineral, has been used as a reinforcement fiber for more than 3,000 years. Because of the abundant availability of the fiber, its acoustical and tensile qualities, and its resistance to fire and chemicals, asbestos has been used extensively in building materials since before the turn of the century.

However, inhalation of asbestos fibers has recently been found to be a health hazard to humans, and building owners may be held liable for the presence of the fibers and subsequent inhalation by occupants. Due to these factors, a move is presently underway among building owners in both the public and private sectors to identify any asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in their buildings. This identification is accomplished by building inspections, which are the first step in a plan to effectively control and/or remove any known asbestos-containing materials found.

The main purposes of these inspections are identification of asbestos-containing materials, determination of the potential for exposure within each building, and generation of budgetary cost estimates for removal and replacement of asbestos-containing materials. Once the asbestos-containing materials are identified and assigned a Priority Level, their removal should be addressed in a phased abatement program. A phased abatement is designed to remove those materials possessing the highest exposure potential (and therefore posing the greatest health risk) first, and then to address the areas with successively lower exposure potentials.

Current EPA statutes address only presently friable (easily crumbled) materials. Nonfriable building materials do not create an environmental exposure unless they are sawn, broken, ripped, or pulverized. However, even materials that are well wrapped and technically nonfriable at the time of inspection have the potential to become friable very readily by accidental tearing or other disturbance. It is for this reason, as well as to simply inform the owner of all asbestos-containing materials, that Hall-Kimbrell's policy is to address all materials which are potentially friable as well as those presently friable.

This report has been organized in a manner that presents the data in several forms to best suit the needs of the building owner. The Quality Control and Method of Quantification section explains our testing and quality control methods. The Synopsis of Anticipated Abatement Cost covers the options and estimated costs for abatement of asbestos-containing materials. The Petrographic Results section is a listing of samples taken and their asbestos content. The Spreadsheets contain detailed information on the locations, types, and quantities of all materials sampled and removal/replacement costs for all asbestos-containing materials. The Miscellaneous Materials section includes materials not tested but known to contain asbestos.